



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs (ACVBA) Meeting Minutes September 8, 2022

Location of Meeting: Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

- Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator, Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD), U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Rob Bailey, Chairman, ACVBA, and President, Bailey Information Tech Cons, LLC
- Kandis Porter, Founder & Managing Director, Effective Flow Connections, LLC
- Joe Sharpe, Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division, The American Legion
- Glenett Hannah, CEO/President, Hannah Innovative Solutions
- Fran Perez-Wilhite, Program Manager, North Carolina Military Business Center
- Melissa Washington, CEO & Founder, Women Veterans Alliance
- Jorge Rodriguez, CEO, Steri-Tech Medical Innovations, LLC.
- Valerie Lewis, Founder & CEO, Valerie Lewis Janitorial
- Gary Lindner, Executive Director, We Aim High
- Michael Thornton, COO/Co-Owner, Visionary Consulting Partners, LLC.
- Isaac Belden, CEO/Co-Founder, Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance
- Scott Jensen, Executive Director, National Veteran Small Business Coalition
- Gregory Hill, Owner, G.B. Hill Medical Supply

1. **Call To Order** – The regular meeting of the ACVBA was called to order at 9:00 AM EST on September 8, 2022, by Larry Stubblefield.
2. **Welcoming Remarks** – Larry Stubblefield
3. **Opening Comments by ACVBA Chairman** – Rob Bailey – The focus areas for the committee in FY 2023 are: Access to Capital; Rule of Two; Procurement Policy and Strategy; and Subcontracting. These are all areas of concern for small businesses. The focus areas will become the work of ACVBA subcommittees which have begun meeting and developing questions that will frame their work. We are hearing from senior officials about the concerns raised by small businesses when it comes to subcontracting, payment, past performance, being relevant in the pre-requirement phase for large business primes. The committee’s focus areas, when it comes to the

ACVBA's final report, lends itself to the committee to be able to ask the question, why?! Why is it those sub-contracting requirements are not part of the contract vehicle that is executed to these large primes? and why is it not mandated, for example for the for the first six months of subcontracting, it is not in the contract for primes to put the small businesses first, or the veteran owned small businesses first. The Policy and Governance subcommittee will address concerns revolving around— A lot of subcontracting plans and not being invoked as written into a contract; and the Access to Capital subcommittee will look more closely at the question, why is it hard for veteran owned small businesses to get access to capital?!

4. Presentations

- a. **Presentation 1** – OVBD Updates – Larry Stubblefield, Update on the Center for Verification (CVE) - Gave an update on three areas of focused for SBA and OVBD regarding the Transfer of the VA Center for Verification, and Evaluation (CVE) to the SBA: (1) Funding. The FY21 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) mandated the CVE be moved to the SBA but provided no funding. SBA has worked closely with VA and OMB to secure initial funding which will allow SBA to begin the technical system build. OMB and SBA are working together to secure funding for FY23;(2) Technology – The VA staff that does verification process is assisting in designing the new system that Administrator Guzman wants for the SBA that focuses on veteran business owners; (3) Policy – SBA published a proposed rule seeking public comment that closed on August 5 and is currently in the process of evaluating those comments. An outside entity has put together a team of business owners to help provide feedback to SBA with two areas; What should control look like and how should SBA approach sub-contracting since the law that was passed only covered sole source set aside contracts. More information is available on SBA's website: <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/veteran-assistance-programs>
- b. **Presentation 2** – VA Small Business Goal Performance for Fiscal Year 2022 & Strategic Outreach & Communications Update – Sharon Ridley, Executive Director, Acquisition Policy Office of Small & Disadvantage Business Utilization, Department of Veteran Affairs
Update on Subcontracting at the Department of Veteran Affairs –
SBA Scorecard – VA has received an “A” rating from SBA for their performance on FY21 small business goals. Small businesses receive 30.38% of the total procurement spend at \$10.5 billion on a goal set at 28.45%; service-disabled veteran owned small businesses obtained 23.76% of VA's total spent at 8.2 billion on a goal of 3%; HUBZone received 2.25% of \$779.7 million on a goal of 3%; Small Disadvantage Business received 11.20% of \$3.9 billion on a goal of 5%; and Women Owned Small Business received 2.31% of \$801.8 million on a goal of 5%. VA Secretary sets a higher goal of 15%.

VA Sub-contracting - VA is also graded based on subcontracting dollars. The department does not directly award these dollars. These are transactions where a prime contractor has subcontracted some part of the work to another firm. When a large business wins a prime contract above certain dollar thresholds, that large businesses required to develop plans to include small businesses as part of his subcontractors. During performance of the contract that large business submits periodic reports on how much it has awarded to those subcontractors.

Recharge Power Hour – VA is working to provide effective outreach per Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government, the VA recently established the Recharge Power Hour Series. This quarterly series offers training that highlights program or socioeconomic class within the purview of Executive Order 1395. VA post their training webinars on their YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/VAOSDBU>

Direct Access Program (DAP) – VA DAP continues to facilitate interactions between veteran owned small businesses and firms and other socio-economic categories with procurement decision makers. OSDBU has continued to contract prospects for small businesses through the hosting of virtual events. Since June 1, 2021, 24 virtual events were conducted; Contract opportunities for a myriad of products and services; and continued their presence at local small business vendor engagement.

Recent and Upcoming Engagement Opportunities –

To view the entire list of upcoming events, visit

<https://www.vetbiz.va.gov/events/>

Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) - The CVE continues to prepare for the transition of the verification program to the SBA. As of August 2, 2022, there were 12,350 service-disabled veteran owned small businesses and 2,927 veteran owned small businesses recorded in the Vendor Information Pages. By statute, CVE must process verification applications within 90 days and the CVE has an average processing time that continues to be low at 32 calendar days, and the CVE is handling 630 applications per month.

- c. **Presentation 3** – National Veteran Business Development Council - Keith King, Founder/CEO- Provided an update on the service-disabled veteran owned small business government history.
- Public Law 106-50 established the Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business as a legal business classification in the federal government procurement regulations.
- Public Law 109-461 established the CVE in 2008
 - Public Law 108-183 also known as the “Veterans Benefit Act” enables service-disabled veteran owned small businesses to receive sole-source and restricted competition contracts for goods purchased by the federal government.

Certification Best Practices Established - in Minority Supplier Development: Guidelines

developed by the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) were published in 2010.

Supplier Diversity – In 1970’s, the practice of supply chains started in American business when the federal government began to publicize regulations for the procurement and contracting of goods and services to benefit small, disadvantaged, or minority businesses.

Billion Dollar Roundtable (BDR) – The National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) issues a 198-page book on all 12 best practice areas that are being employed by organizations to achieve best practice excellence. BDR accepts veteran owned small businesses and due to the advocacy of the NVBDC, the BDR members voted to include the service-disabled and veteran owned small businesses certified by their quality spend. The NVBDC is the only certifying organization that will qualify Veteran business diversity expenditures for BDR audits and certification for service-disabled and veteran-owned is required.

NVBDC – Is the nation’s original third-party authority for certification of veteran-owned businesses of all sizes. It is the only Veteran Owned Business Certification organization developed by veterans, for veterans. The purpose is to provide a credible and reliable certifying authority for all-size businesses ensuring that valid documentation exists of Veteran ownership and operational control.

Collection of Documents - There must be an immediate meeting between the VA, SBA, and SMEs to conduct a thorough review of the various statutory and regulatory legislation and veteran-based laws to determine what is a veteran.

- d. **Presentation 4** – Madison Services Group, Inc. & Women Veterans Business Coalition -Ann Sullivan –

Congressional Actions: What’s Happening in Washington - FY23 Appropriations House

- House: 6/12 bills passed on July 20
- Advocacy win: \$20 million for CVE transfer included
- Senate: 0/12 bills passed
 - CR is expected to fund government after September 30th

Military Construction FY2023 Appropriations Bill

Advertising Contracts for Small Business: The Committee directs each agency covered to include information about expenditures for all contracts for advertising services and contracts for the advertising services of socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses and women-and minority owned businesses

House Passed FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

- Passed July 14th
- Senate has not passed their version
- Final bill expected end of year

Recent Legislation

- Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
- CHIPS Plus

Congressional Actions: Veterans Legislative Actions – The PACT ACT:

- Signed into law on August 10th; Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post 9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation exposures
- Allows more veterans to enroll in VA health care without having to demonstrate a service-connected disability

Congressional Actions: The VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021:

Signed into law on June 23rd - Requires the VA to report quarterly on:

- The costs of its Electronic Health Record Modernization Program, including by describing all expenses driven by the program
- The performance metrics and outcomes of the program

Congressional Actions: House Veterans Affairs Committee Passed 18 Bills Full House for a Vote - H.R. 8260, Faster Payments to Veteran Survivors Act of 2022; • H.R. 7846, Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2022 • H.R. 7299, Strengthening VA Cybersecurity (SVAC) Act of 2022 • H.R. 8003, Restore Veterans Dignity Act of 2022 • H.R. 8215, VOICE Act of 2022 • H.R. 6647, RELIEVE Act • H.R. 5606, Return Home to Housing Act • H.R. 5776, Serving Our LGBTQ Veterans Act • H.R. 6823, Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Service for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022 • H.R. 3693, VA CPE Modernization Act • H.R. 291, VA COST SAVINGS Enhancements Act • H.R. 5752, Emergency Relief for Servicemembers Act • H.R. 7939, Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022 • H.R. 7188, Modernizing Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Benefit Questionnaires Act • H.R. 7735, Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022 • H.R. 8313, House Every Veteran Act • H.R. 5916, Wounded Warrior Access Act • H.R. 6671, Vaccine Discharge Parity Act

House Passed FY2023 NDAA Veterans Amendments

- Requires DoD and VA to establish an Interagency Task Force on Financial Fraud to combat financial fraud targeting service members, veterans, and military families
- Eliminates contraception co-pays at the VA
- Ensures timely scheduling of appointments for health care at VA medical facilities
- Requires the VA to carry out a program to provide grants to certain veteran service organizations affected by COVID
- Requires DHS and the VA to establish a pilot program to provide cybersecurity training to eligible veterans and military spouses
- Requires the VA, HUD and DOL to report on the effectiveness of supportive services being offered to and used by veterans
- Directs the VA to conduct an awareness campaign on fertility treatments, procedures, and services that are available to veterans experiencing issues

with fertility under the VA medical benefits package

Small Business Legislation: FY2023 NDAA Small Business Amendments

- Extends the deadline for the SBA CVE transfer by one year
- Extends 8(a) program participation by one year
- Requires DoD to give preference to local firms for military construction contracts
- Requires SBA to report data on WOSB federal contracting program
- Requires federal agencies to share contract bundling data with SBA
- Raises sole source thresholds for all socioeconomic programs to \$8/\$10 million (does not eliminate option years, this is total over the life of the contract)
- Increases set-aside contract data transparency on annual Procurement Scorecard
- Clarifies that the HUBZone price preference applies to task orders
- Increases clarity of the SBA's nonmanufacturer rule waiver process
- Adds cyber counseling capability to SBDCs

Small Business Legislations:

- **August 5: Small Business Bills Signed into Law:** H.R. 7352, PPP, and Bank Fraud Enforcement Harmonization Act of 2022 • H.R. 7334, COVID-19 EIDL Fraud Statute of Limitations Act of 2022
- **June 8: House-Passed Small Business Legislation** • H.R. 5879, HUBZone Price Evaluation Preference Clarification Act of 2021 • H.R. 7694, Strengthening Subcontracting for Small Businesses Act of 2022 • H.R. 7670, Women-Owned Small Business Program Transparency Act • H.R. 7622, Small Business Workforce Pipeline Act of 2022 • H.R. 7664, Supporting Small Business and Career and Technical Education Act of 2022

Small Business Contracting Updates:

- SBA Expands Methods for Past Performance Ratings for Small Government Contractors
- for Past Performance Ratings for Small Government Contractors DOL Implements E.O. on Non-Displacement of Employees on Existing Contracts
- GSA Resumes Solicitation for Polaris GWAC Small Business and WOSB Pools
- SBA Extends Bona Fide Place of Business Moratorium for 8(a) Companies
- SBA Releases FY2021 Procurement Scorecards for Agencies

Madison Services Group, Inc. – [Madison Services Group - Small Business, Government Contracting](#)

5. The next meeting will be held December 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. EST. Platform to be determined.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. EST by Laura Wages.

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis